Archil of Iberia

(r. 411 - 435)

BRIEFING

Arch'il (Georgian: არჩილი), of the Chosroid Dynasty, was the king (*mepe*) of Iberia (Kartli, eastern Georgia) from c. 411 to 435. He was the son and successor of King Mirdat IV.

BIOGRAPHY

The two principal medieval Georgian chronicles – *The Conversion of Kartli*, and *The Life of Kartli*, – relate conflicting versions of Archil's reign. The former story is extremely brief but complains that the positions of Zoroastrianism, an official Sasanian religion, was firm in Christian Iberia, a testimony to the effectively unchallenged Sasanid hegemony over the country. The other chronicle informs us of Archil's successful rebellion against Iran, his victory over a punitive force and a retaliatory raid into Arran. The authenticity of this latter account has been questioned by modern scholars.

Arch'il is also attested in two Armenian sources: Koryun's *The Life of Mashtots*, cap. 18; and Moses of Chorene, III.60.